

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,022

Examiner

Nikita Wells

Applicant(s)

JMAR RESEARCH, INC

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to "Preliminary Amendment" received 5 February 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Nikita Wells
Primary Examiner
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Detailed Action

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The following minor informality in claim 26 has been corrected by the Examiner:
In claim 26, line 6: "end." has been changed to --end; and--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-35 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to the independent claims 1 and 31, prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, in combination with other recited features of the claim limitations, a method and an apparatus for generating a liquid membrane target for laser produced plasma comprising: a member including at least one aperture, wherein each aperture is operable for providing a liquid membrane target that is supported within the aperture by the surface tension of the liquid; and a targeting apparatus operable to direct short wavelength radiation onto the liquid membrane target in order to generate plasma.

With respect to the independent claim 14, prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, an apparatus for generating a spherical membrane target for laser produced plasma comprising: a member including at least one aperture, wherein each aperture is operable for providing a liquid membrane target that is supported within the aperture by the surface tension of the liquid; a blower positioned adjacent to one side of the member, the blower operable for applying pressure to the liquid membrane target so as generate a spherical membrane target on an opposite side of the member, and a targeting apparatus operable to direct short wavelength radiation onto the spherical membrane target so as to generate plasma.

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With respect to the independent claim 26, prior art fails to disclose or make obvious, an apparatus for generating a spherical membrane target for laser produced plasma comprising: a first hollow member operable to provide a liquid target solution from a first end; a second hollow member disposed within the first hollow member wherein the second hollow member is operable to provide a gas from a first end so that a spherical membrane target is formed at the first end; and a targeting apparatus operable to direct short wavelength radiation onto the spherical membrane target so as to generate plasma.

The dependent claims 2-13, 15-25, 27-30, and 32-35, are allowable by virtue of their dependence upon the independent claims 1, 14, 26, and 31, respectively.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nikita Wells whose telephone number is (571) 272-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2477. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

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6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Wells".

Nikita Wells, Primary Examiner
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November 10, 2004